



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

TRANSMITTAL # 5

MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2009

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: B.J. Swanson, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: Governor's Nursing Workforce Advisory Council

ACTION REQUESTED: No Action, Information Only

BACKGROUND:

The Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council was established by the Idaho Legislature in 2007 to study the nursing workforce shortage and to recommend solutions to bring equilibrium to nursing supply and demand. Governor Otter appointed an exceptional group of leaders from education, government and industry to advise him, the Idaho Legislature, State Board of Education and others on solutions for what has been a pattern of chronic vacancies in the nursing profession. In January of 2009, the council released its report as the culmination of a year-long effort to study the issue and devise solutions. A copy of the executive summary and the full report may be viewed at: labor.idaho.gov/publications.

The Idaho Nursing Workforce Advisory Council recommended, among other things, the continuation of the initiative in order to sustain the progress that was made and to extend the initiative to include all health care sectors. Governor Otter announced the formation of the Health Professions Education Council in his 2009 State of the State address and appointed the new members in March of this year. This new council will replace the Nursing Workforce Advisory Council and will focus on the broader needs of the industry. The research performed by the Idaho Department of Labor is viewed as a critical component of the effort to ensure that information is available to direct scarce education resources as council members address the health care needs of the citizens of Idaho.

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